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Modals-

Modals are the modified forms of helping verbs, i.e. they modify the mood of the action verb.

Features of Modals:

- Modals always express the imaginary actions like ability, power, permission, request, possibility, willingness, certainty, right and wrong, necessity, etc.
- Modals do not come alone, they always take the 1st form of the verb with them.
- Modals are never affected by the person, number and gender of the subject.

Examples of modals-

Uses of Modal 'Will'

1) The first rule for the use of Modal 'will' is that it expresses pure future with second and third person as subjects.

2) The second rule for use of Modal 'will' is that it shows willingness, intention, promise, determination with the first person as a subject.

3) The third and last use of Modal 'will' is that it tells about the characteristic, habit, assumption, invitation or request and insistence.

Examples of Modal 'Will' are given below:

1) You will die of a heart attack. (Pure Future)

2) The prime minister will hoist the flag. (Pure Future)

3) I will meet you again. (Promise)

4) I will need your help. (Willingness/ intention)

5) He will achieve his goals. (Determination)

6) A child will usually obey his parents. (Characteristic habit)

7) He will be here at any moment. (Assumption)

8) Will you go with me. (Request)

9) He will not listen to his teacher's advice. (Insistence)

Uses of Modal 'Would'

The rule for the use of Modal 'would' is that it expresses past habits, polite request, wish/preference or an imaginary condition.

Examples of Modal 'Would' are given below:

1) He would wake up early in the morning and go to work. (Past habits)

2) My mother would always make me my favourite dishes. (Past habits)

3) Would you get me a glass of water, please? (Polite request)

4) I would like to see the owner. (Polite request)

5) I wish you would be here. (Wish)

6) I would rather have food at home than outside. (Preference)

7) I would buy a house if I won the lottery. (Preference)

Uses of Modal 'Shall'

1) The first rule for the use of Modal 'Shall' is that it expresses pure future with the first person as the subject.

2) The second rule for the use of Modal 'Shall' is that it is used to ask for advice, suggestions, requests, etc. with the first person in the interrogative.

3) The third rule for the use of Modal 'Shall' is that it is used to express command, threat, warning, promise, assurance, determination, etc. with the second and third person as the subjects.

Examples of Modal 'Shall' are given below:

1) We shall go to school tomorrow. (Pure Future)

2) I shall teach you to dance. (Pure Future)

3) Shall I bring a glass of fresh juice for you? (Request)

4) Shall I close the door? (Advice)

- 5) Shall we go to the market tomorrow? (Suggestion)
- 6) You shall get a reward for your achievement. (Promise/ Assurance)
- 7) You shall go to your room. (Command)
- 8) They shall win the match. (Determination)

Uses of Modal 'Should'

- 1) The first rule for the use of Modal 'Should' is that it is used to express duty, obligation, advisability or desirability.
- 2) The second rule for the use of Modal 'Should' is that it is used to express logical interference, supposition, assumption, possibility or probability.
- 3) The third rule for the use of Modal 'Should' is that it is used to express a purpose after 'lest'.

Examples of Modal 'Should' are given below:

- 1) We should go to school every day. (Duty)
- 2) You should not be late for work. (Obligation/ Desirability)
- 3) You should exercise more often. (advisability)
- 4) He should be at the office by now. (Possibility)
- 5) If he should see me there, he will be happy. (Probable Condition)
- 6) Leave on time, lest you should miss the train. (should after lest)

Uses of Modal 'May'

The rule for the use of Modal 'May' is that it is used to express possibility, permission, wish, faith, hope or a purpose.

Examples of Modal 'May' are given below:

- 1) It may snow in the evening. (Possibility)
- 2) May I go now, sir? (Permission)
- 3) May God always be with you. (Wish, faith or hope)

4) He is working hard so that he may get an appraisal. (Purpose)

Uses of Modal 'Might'

The rule for the use of Modal 'Might' is that it is used to express less possibility, permission or a guess.

Example of Modal Might are given below:

- 1) It might rain today. (Less possibility)
- 2) Might I go to get the files? (Permission)
- 3) That might be the new guard. (Guess)

Uses of Modal 'Can'

The rule for the use of Modal 'Can' is that it is used to express permission, possibility, ability or capacity.

Examples of Modal 'Can' are given below:

- 1) Can I go to the market? (Permission)
- 2) Anyone can be the thief. (Possibility)
- 3) He can stay awake for 2 days. (Ability/ Capacity)

Uses of Modal 'Could'

The rule for the use of Modal 'Could' is that it is used to express ability or capacity in the past, polite request or a possibility under certain circumstances.

Examples of Modal 'Could' are given below:

- 1) He could run very fast in his youth. (Ability/ Capacity in the past)
- 2) Could you wait for him? (Polite request)
- 3) If we had money, we could have bought a house. (Possibility under certain conditions)

Uses of Modal 'Must'

The rule for use of Modal 'Must' is that it is used to express obligation/ duty, necessity, compulsion, prohibition, emphatic advice, determination, assumption, conclusion/ interference, certainty/ strong probability.

Examples of Modal 'Must' are given below:

- 1) The children must obey their parents. (Duty)
- 2) We must not steal money from anyone. (Duty)
- 3) You must follow the orders of your boss. (Obligation)
- 4) I must reach work on time. (Necessity)
- 5) He must do as I say. (Compulsion)
- 6) You must not smoke in public places. (Prohibition)
- 7) You must see a dentist at once. (Emphatic advice)
- 8) We must not go before they come back. (Determination)
- 9) The students must be in their classes at this time. (Strong Probability)
- 10) He must be 40 years old. (Assumption)
- 11) He must have left by now. (Certainty)

Uses of Modal 'Have to'

The rule for the use of Modal 'Have to' is that it is used in the sense of must, to give advice or to recommend something.

Examples of Modal 'Have to' are given below:

- 1) I have to reach there by 9:30 pm. (in the sense of Must)
- 2) You have to start working soon. (Advice)

*Had to is used when describing something belonging to the past.

*He had to go early to catch the train.

These two verbs have the following forms:

Time	Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
Present	must have has to	must I? have I to/has he to?	haven't to hasn't to mustn't
Future Time Reference	must, shall/will have to	shall I have to? will I have to/must I?	I shall not have to won't I not have to
Past	had to	had I to?	I hadn't to

Have to and had to have alternative negative and interrogative forms:

Present:	Negative haven't to or don't have to	Interrogative have I to?
Past Tense:	hadn't to or didn't have to or didn't have to	did I have to? or did I have to?

For example:

Have you to obey his orders?

or

Do you have to obey his orders?

Had you to work on Sundays?

or

Did you have to work on Sundays?

Uses of Modal 'Need'

The main rule for the use of Modal 'Need' is that it chiefly shows the absence of necessity or compulsion in the negative and interrogative sentences.

Examples of the Modal Need are given below:

1) You need not worry about work.

2) Need I talk to her.

Uses of Modal 'Ought'

The rule for the use of Modal 'Will' is that it is used to express the subjects obligation or duty and also it is used to give advice.

Examples of Modal 'Ought' are given below:

1) I ought to love my parents. (Obligation/ Duty)

2) We ought not to cheat anyone. (Duty)

3) You ought to practise for more than 2 hours a day if you want to clear the exam.

Uses of Modal 'Dare'

The rule for using the Modal 'Dare' is that it is used at places where we need to show courage. It is generally used in negative and interrogative way.

Examples of Modal Dare are given below:

1) I dare not fail in my exams. (Negative)

2) How dare you interrupt us? (Interrogative)

Uses of Modal 'Used to'

The rule for the usage of Modal 'Used to' is that it is used to express past habits and to express the existence of something in the past.

Examples of the Modal 'Used to' are given below:

1) I used to go swimming every morning. (Past Habits)

2) There used to be a door at this place long ago.(Existence of something in the past)

MODAL and SEMI-MODAL VERBS		
Modal	Concept	Example
CAN	Ability	I can swim.
	Permission	Can I borrow this? (May is also used.)
	Obligation	Can't help it!
COULD	Possibility	That story could be true - who knows!
	Past ability	Charles could swim at the age of five.
	Permission	Could I use your phone please?
	Requests	Could you open the left please?
BE ABLE TO*	Ability	My brother is able to find his way home.
HAVE TO*	Obligation	I have to take all my light. That's the law.
	Permission	Children have to arrive at time at school.
MAY	Possibility	It may rain today - it's a bit cloudy.
	Permission	May I borrow your dictionary?
MIGHT	Soft possibility	It might rain a bit, but I doubt it.
	Past form of 'may' in reported speech	I said it might rain - but I was wrong.
MUST	Obligation	Julia's official must wear a uniform.
	Logical deduction	The motor is off - the door is open.
	Deduction	His mouth is full of pain - it's a surprise.
MUSTN'T	Obligation	You shouldn't take your medicine regularly.
	Logical deduction	He's refused to be elected past the last.
SHOULD	Advice	You ought to write to your grandmother.
	Logical deduction	OK ought to be enough for the law.
OUGHT TO*	Advice	You ought to write to your grandmother.
	Logical deduction	OK ought to be enough for the law.
SHALL	Future tense auxiliary	I shall be in London on Friday (or I'll be...)
	Contracted form	I shall order a taxi.
WILL	Future tense auxiliary	The trust will cost about £5k.
	Intention/offer	Will you pass me the coffee?